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File No: 24530-005

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Kentaro NAGATA      Group Art Unit: To be assigned  
Serial No.: To be assigned      Examiner: To be assigned

National Phase of  
PCT/JP2003/008706,  
filed July 9, 2003

Filed: Herewith – January 7, 2005

For: **TIGHTENING BAND AND TIGHTENING BAND PRODUCING METHOD**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows: